NHRC Chairman's observation regarding security of refugees in J&K

*59. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chairman of the National Human Rights Commission visited Jammu and Kashmir in May, 2003 and asked the Government to provide security to the displaced people of the State;

(b) whether the Chairman listened to the grievances of the refugees from PoK and migrants and Kashmiri Pandits; and

(c) the action taken by the Centre and State Government for the redressal of their grievances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) The Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission visited Jammu on 17.5.2003. Observing the fact that Kashmiri Migrant families had been forced to leave their homes under unfortunate circumstances he asked the State Government to provide appropriate living conditions to them in the context of their fundamental right to a life with dignity.

(b) During his visit on 17.5.2003, the Chairperson met delegations of Jammu and Kashmir Sharnarthi Action Committee, Jammu, Victims of Nadimarg (Kashmir) Massacre (Regd.) Morcha and State Kashmiri Pandits Conference and heard their grievances.

(c) The State Government of J&K is providing accommodation, cash relief, ration and educational as well as other facilities to the Kashmiri Migrants. The expenditure incurred on providing relief is reimbursed to the State Government by Government of India. The State Government has constituted an Apex Level Committee and also a High Power Committee to look after the demands and grievances of the Kashmiri Migrants, which includes demands in respect of living conditions in the camps. NHRC has also constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of the Minister of Revenue, Relief and Rehabilitation with the Relief Commission, Migrants as the Convenor with Shri Chaman Lal, Special Rapporteur, NHRC as the Commission's representative to consider the demands and grievances of the Kashmiri Migrants for their redressal.

These Committees meet regularly to consider the demands and grievances of the Kashmiri Migrants for their redressal.

As regards the PoK displaced persons, Union Government have approved the following relief:

(i) Cash compensation for land deficiency at the maximum rate of Rs. 25,000/- per displaced person family of 1947 from PoK.

(ii) *Ex-gratia* @ Rs. 25,000/- per family.

(iii) Payment of Rs. 2 crore to be provided for the allotment of plots to those displaced persons who have already been settled in the State of J&K and who have not been allotted plots in the past.

(iv) Payment of Rs. 25 lakhs to the State Government for improvement of civic amenities in 46 regularised colonies.

A Committee under Chairmanship of the Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Government of Jammu and Kashmir has been constituted to implement the decision of the Government.

Commissioning of 'Shivalik' Warship

*60. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:.

(a) whether India's first stealth warship 'Shivalik' was launched recently;

(b) if so, whether it is the first of a class of three projects 17 warships;

(c) the special features of 'Shivalik'; and

(d) by when it is expected to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) It has advanced attack as well as advanced defence features consisting of missiles, guns, anti submarine weapons, electronic warfare system and Radars.

(d) It is planned to be commissioned by December, 2005.